

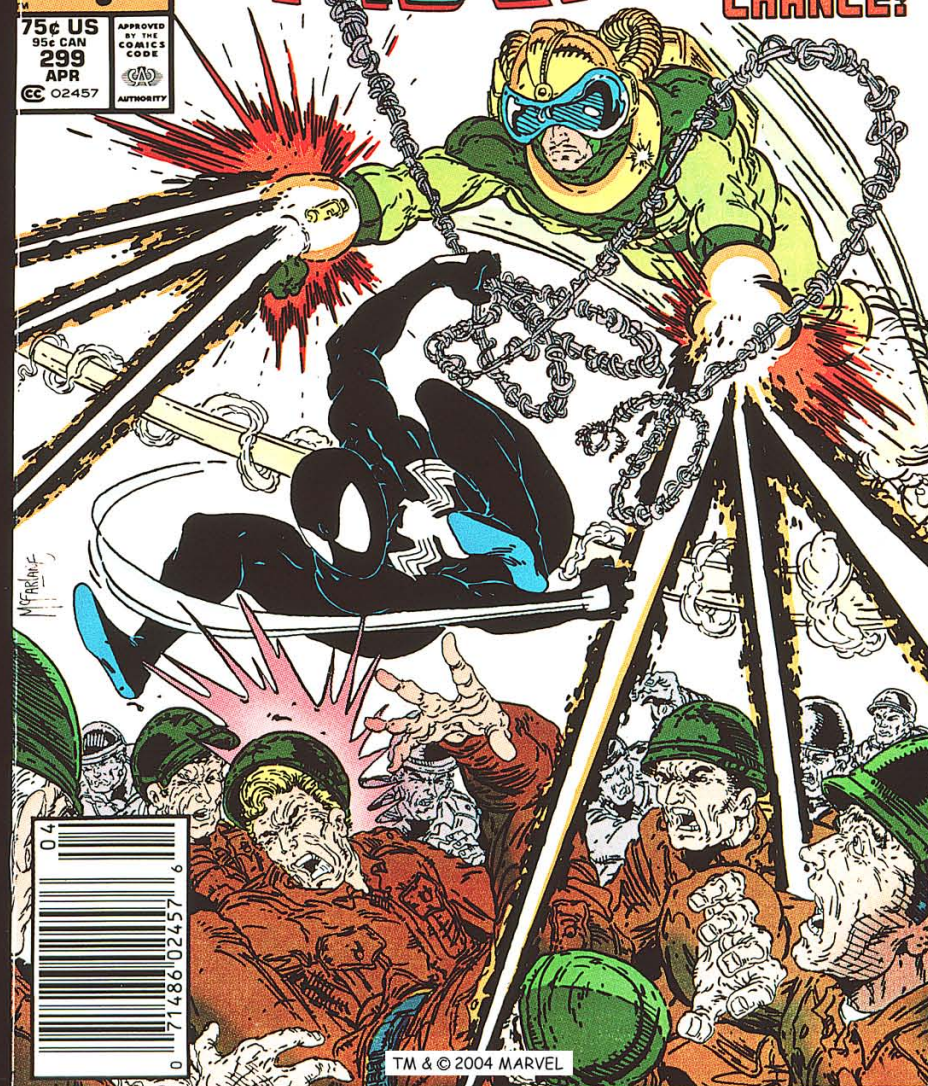


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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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CHANCE!



Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®**

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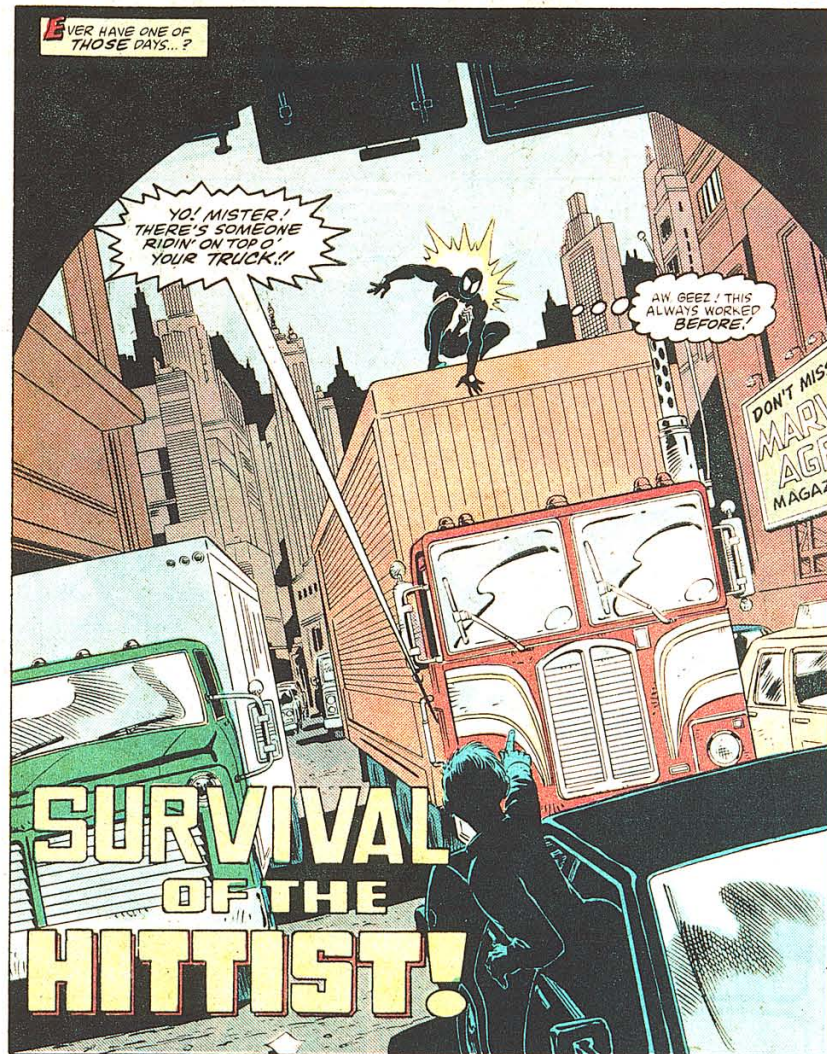
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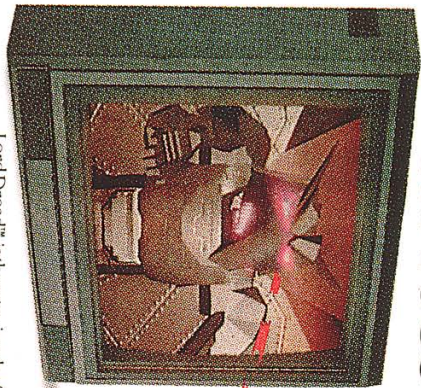
TOM
DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

EVER HAVE ONE OF
THOSE DAYS...?



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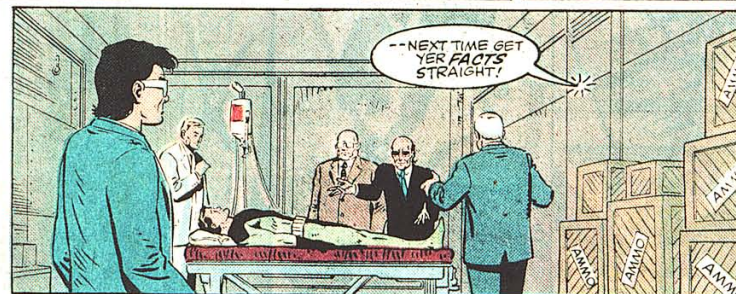
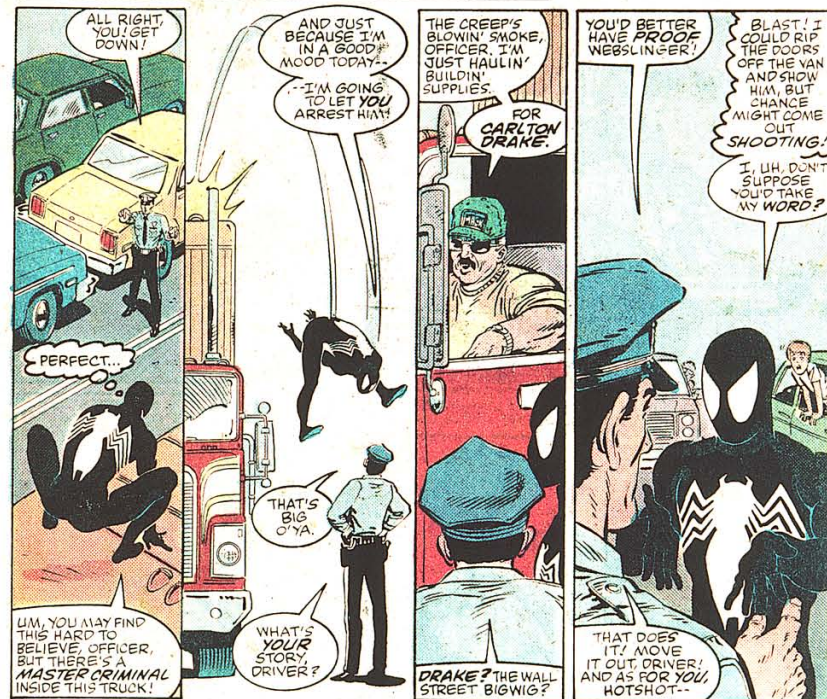
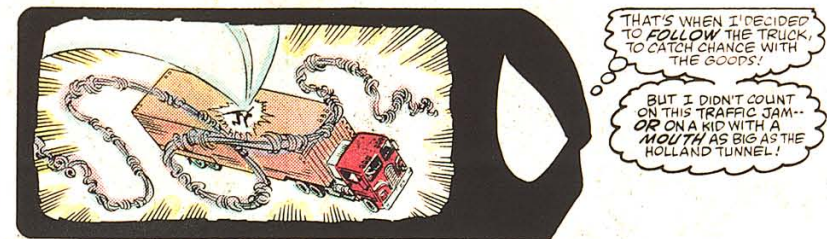
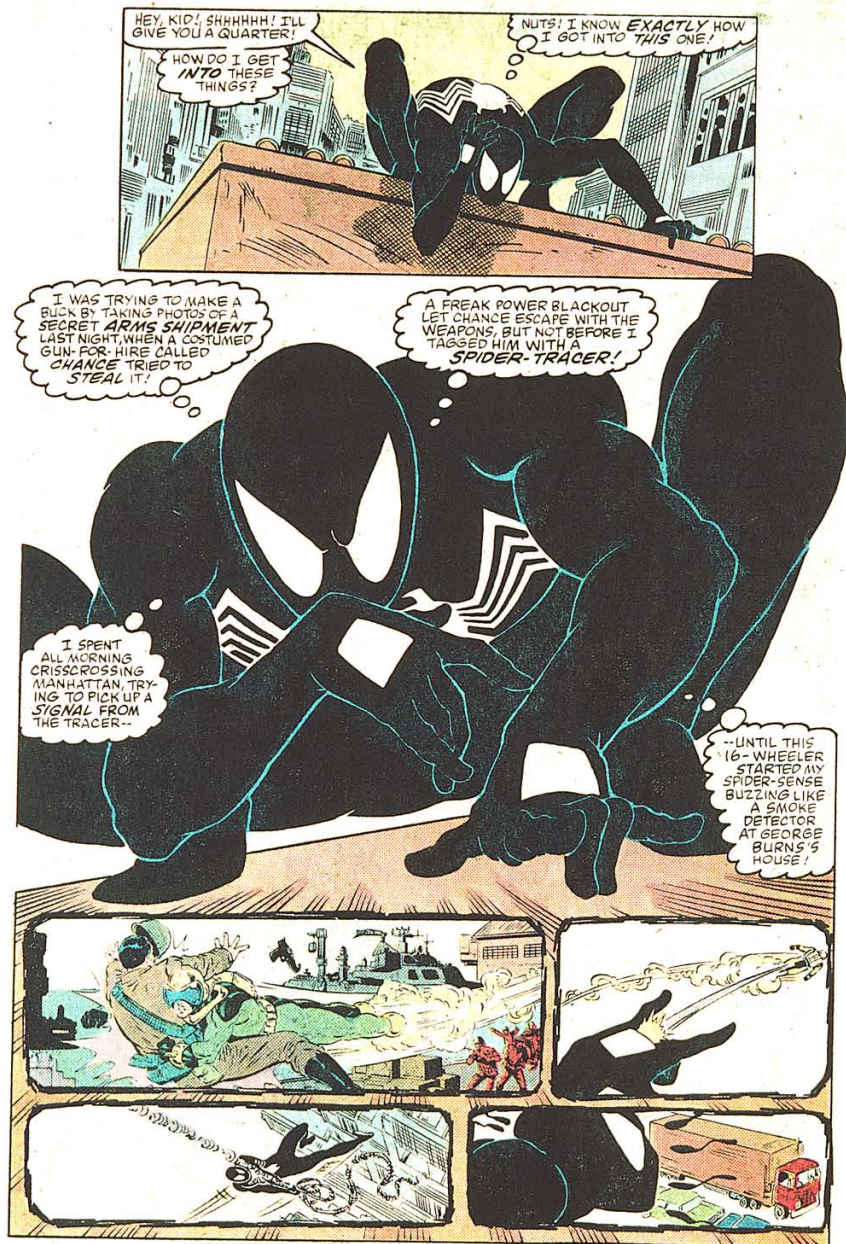
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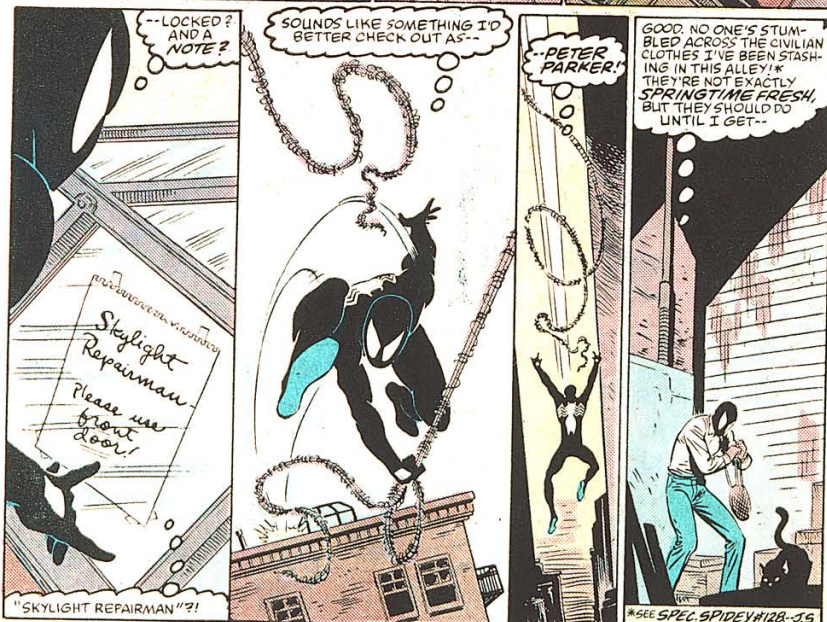
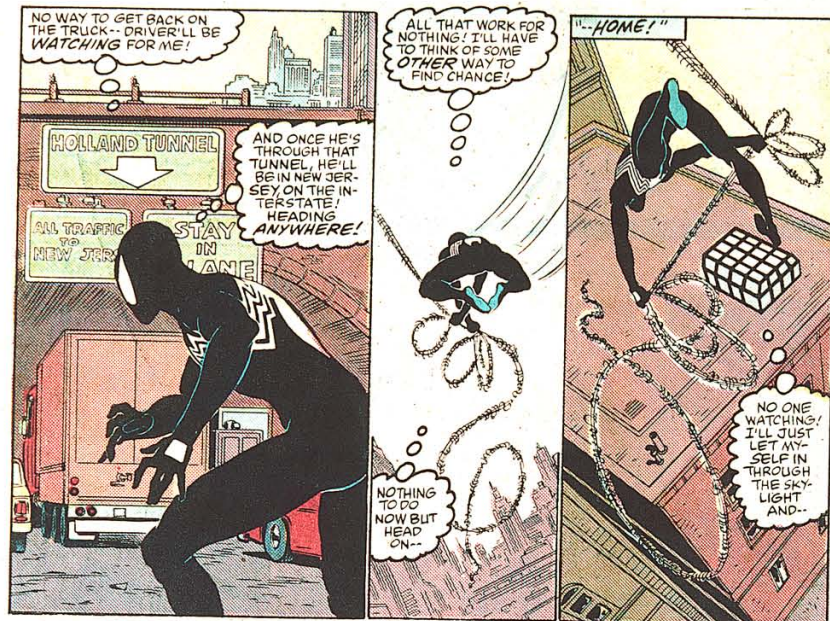
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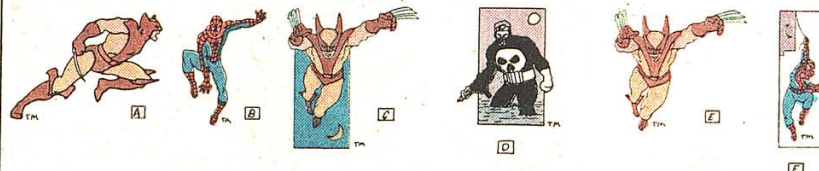
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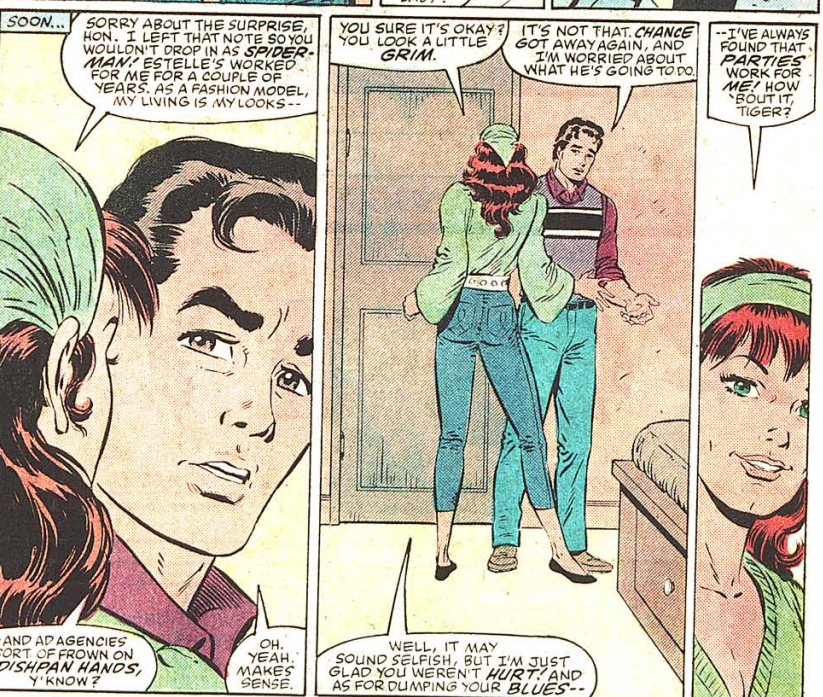
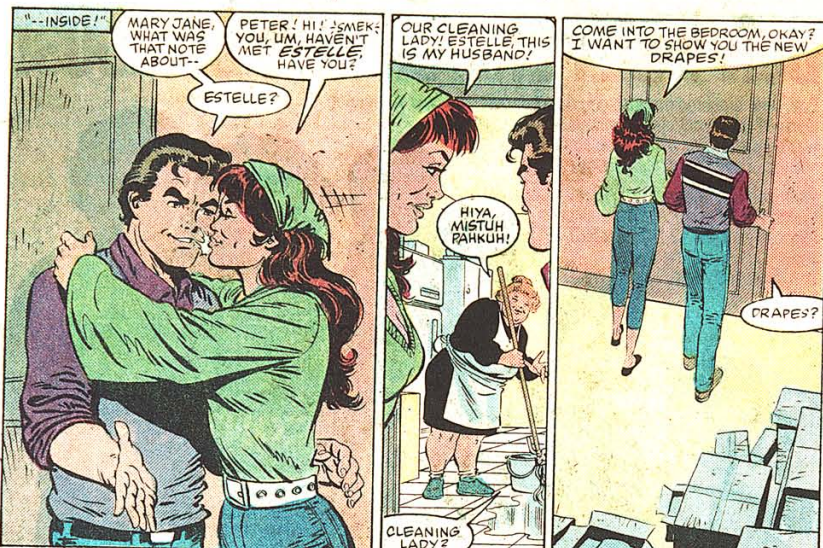
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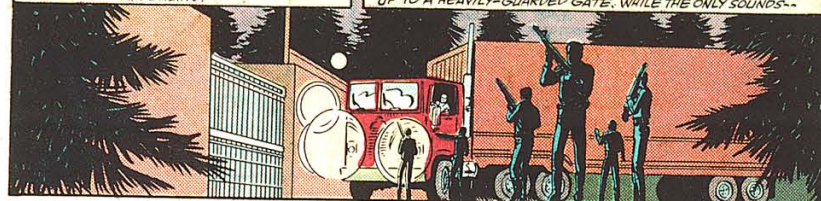
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AT THAT MOMENT, PETER PARKER FINDS BRIGHT LIGHTS AND HOT SOUNDS DEFINITELY APPEALING.

BUT AS DUSK LOWERS OVER NORTHERN NEW JERSEY THE ONLY LIGHTS SEEN THERE COME FROM A 16-WHEELER KILLING UP TO A HEAVILY-GUARDED GATE. WHILE THE ONLY SOUNDS--



-- ARE THOSE OF CONSPIRACY!

LOOKS PEACEFUL, DOESN'T HE?

MAYBE NOW, MR. DRAKE, BUT WHEN CHANCE WAKES UP AND FINDS WE NEVER INTENDED TO PAY HIM FOR THOSE WEAPONS, THAT WE TRICKED HIM INTO BEING OUR PRISONER--

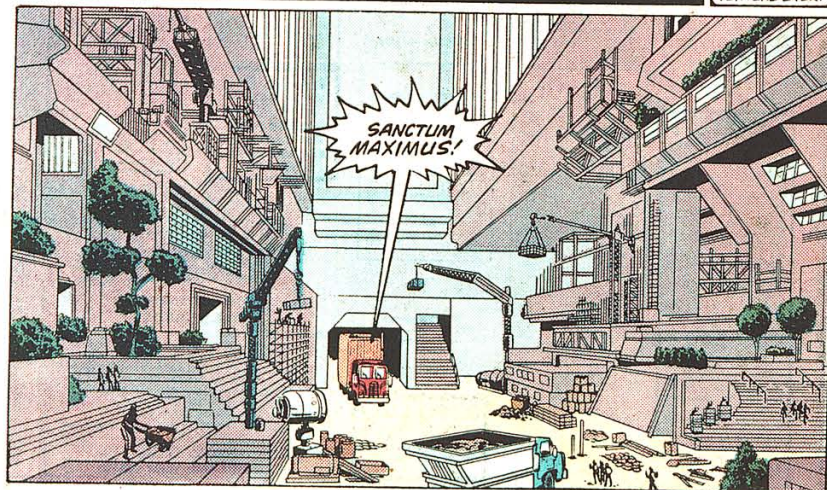
-- HE COULD BE TROUBLE!

MR. GABRIEL, YOU'VE BEEN A BOARD MEMBER OF THE LIFE FOUNDATION FOR YEARS, YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW--

-- THAT WE PREPARE FOR ANY EVENTUALITY, LIKE IT OR NOT, CHANCE WILL BE A KEY ELEMENT--



-- IN OUR GOLDENEST, MOST PROFITABLE VENTURE EVER!



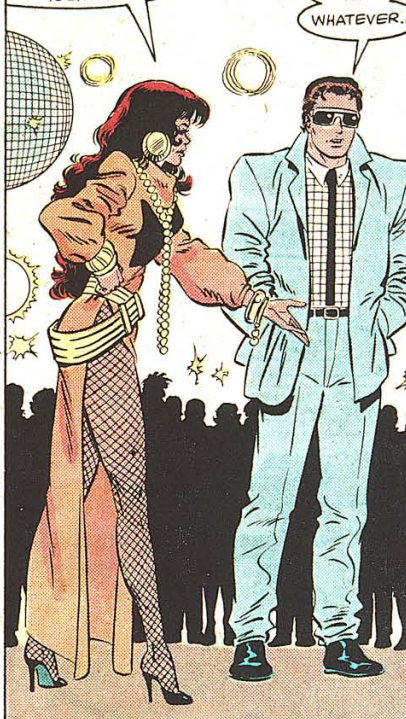
WHILE IN NEW YORK, THE NIGHT GROWS OLD--



-- AND BECOMES THE PROPERTY OF THE YOUNG.

STOP SQUIRMING, PETER! YOU ACT LIKE YOUR MOTHER DRESSED YOU, NOT ME!

SORRY, MI. I'LL TRY TO LOOK COOL. ER, HOT! WHATEVER...



OH, LOOK! THERE'S EDDIE! HI, EDDIE!



SURE HE'S A REAL SWEETHEART. ONCE YOU GET PAST HIS BODYGUARDS!

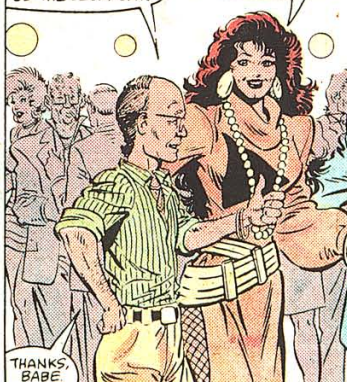
ENJOY! WE'VE JUST GOTTA HAVE ONE NUTTY LITTLE DANCE!



PAUL! GOOD TO SEE YOU!

I HEARD YOU TIED THE M-LOT. THIS MUST BE THE LUCKY CAT!

UH-HUH. WOULD YOU MIND, PETER?



THANKS, BABE

UH, NO! GO RIGHT AHEAD!

WOW. I MAY NEVER FIT INTO MARY JANE'S WORLD COMPLETELY--



-- BUT IT SURE IS A FUN PLACE TO VISIT ONCE IN A WHILE!

NEW JERSEY: CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SMALL CITY HIDDEN BENEATH A GARGANTUAN CAMOUFLAGED DOME.



WHILE INSIDE ONE OF THE COMPLETED BUILDINGS...

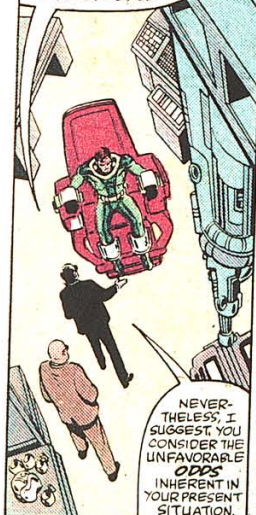
WE BROUGHT YOU HERE IN ORDER TO DUPLICATE YOUR WRIST PLASTERS AND ANKLE JETS. HOWEVER, OUR SCIENTISTS CAN'T SEEM TO FIND ANY TRIGGER MECHANISMS.



THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY ACTIVATED CYBERNETICALLY, BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DISCOVER THE PRECISE METHOD.

OUR RESOURCES ARE VAST. YOU WOULD BE WISE TO TELL US EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW... WHILE YOU'RE STILL RELATIVELY UNHARMED. FOR I ASSURE YOU, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...

YOU ARE A UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL, CHANCE. A CRIMINAL-FOR-HIRE WHO DOES NOT CHARGE FOR HIS SERVICES. RATHER, YOU WAGER YOUR FEE AGAINST YOUR SUCCESS. TO YOU, RISK IS ALL.



NEVERTHELESS, I SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER THE UNFAVORABLE ODDS INHERENT IN YOUR PRESENT SITUATION.

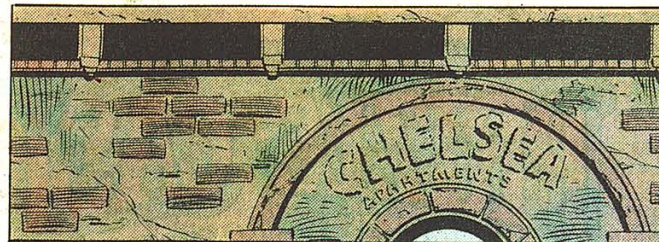


--YOU WILL TELL US

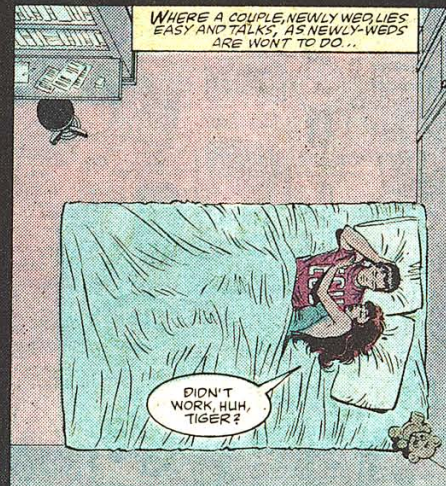


WANNA BET?

CHELSEA STREET: AN EARLY-MORNING MOON SHINES INTO A TOP FLOOR APARTMENT.



WHERE A COUPLE, NEWLY WED, LIES EASY AND TALKS. AS NEWLY WEDS ARE WONT TO DO...



DIDN'T WORK, HUH, TIGER?

THE CLUB WAS FABULOUS, MARY JANE, AND I'D LIKE TO DO IT AGAIN SOME TIME. BUT NOW THE MUSIC'S STOPPED AND REALITY'S STILL HERE.



I KNOW THAT SOMEWHERE, SOMEONE'S GOT A SHIPMENT OF STOLEN MILITARY WEAPONS...

-- AND I CAN'T HELP WORRYING ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO BE DONE WITH THEM... WHO'S GOING TO BE KILLED WITH THEM.



I JUST CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM IT, SOMEHOW, I'VE GOT TO FIND CHANCE!

I... I UNDERSTAND, PETER. JUST...

...BE CAREFUL, OKAY?



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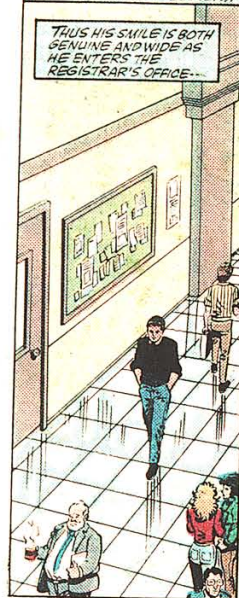


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ONE OF NEW
YORK'S FOREMOST
INSTITUTES OF
HIGHER LEARNING



AND A SOURCE OF FOND
NOSTALGIA FOR PETER
PARKER. HE REMEMBERS
HIS UNDERGRADUATE DAYS,
THE CAREFREE LIFE, THE
EXCITEMENT OF DISCOVERY

THUS HIS SMILE IS BOTH
GENUINE AND WIDE AS
HE ENTERS THE
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE...



-- AND SHARES THAT
SMILE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT, ANNIE DEITZ...

I'VE CALLED UP THE INFORMATION
YOU WANTED, PETER, BUT SINCE
YOU AREN'T A STUDENT ANY-
MORE, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED
TO LOOK AT IT.

I HOPE
YOU'LL
REMEMBER
THAT WHILE
I'M OFF
POWDERING
MY NOSE,
FOR, SAY,
FIVE
MINUTES?



THANKS,
ANNIE.

AND, ONCE ALONE...

HMM. THE SUPPORT
DRAKE WITHDREW
WAS A RENT
FREE LEASE.



ON SEVERAL
HUNDRED ACRES OF
PRIME FOREST
LAND--

-- IN NORTHERN
NEW JERSEY--
AND JERSEY
WAS WHERE
THAT SHIPMENT
OF "BUILDING
SUPPLIES"
WAS HEADED!

BETTER
CALL
MARY
JANE.



-- NO. SHE'D
JUST
WORRY.
I'LL
TELL
HER
LATER.

LET HER
KNOW I'LL
BE LATE FOR--

STATE ROAD
62: A NORTH-
BOUND TRUCKER
RELEASES A
LONG HITCH-
HIKER TO THE
NEW JERSEY
WILDERNESS.



A TRAVELER WHO
THEN TURNS AND
CAUTIOUSLY ENTERS
THE TWILIGHT-DIMMED
WOODLANDS...



BUS GOT ME TO THE
NEAREST TOWN, HAD
TO THUMB MY WAY
HERE. THOUGH, SHOULD
BE CLOSE TO THE
AREA SHOWN IN THE
E.S.U. RECORDS.
I JUST HOPE--



-- WHOA! EITHER
THIS IS A FACTORY
OUTLET FOR GUARDS
R-US, OR I'VE HIT
THE JACKPOT!

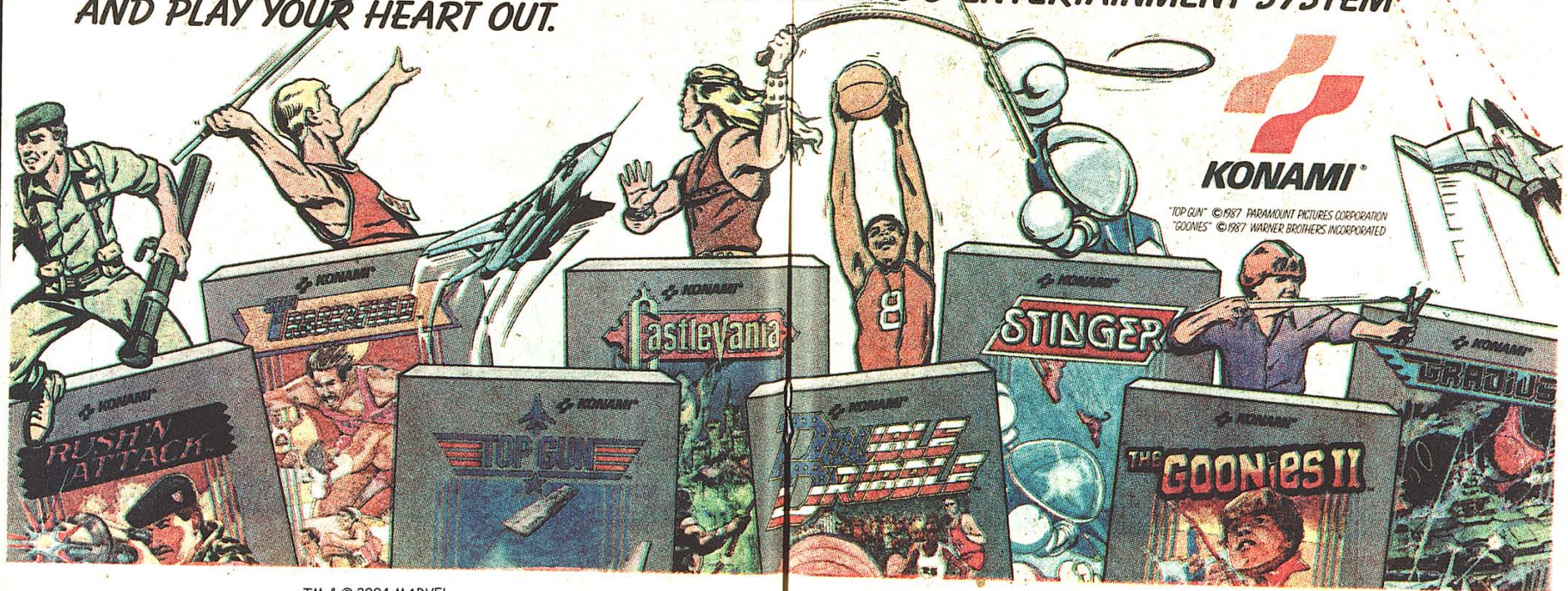


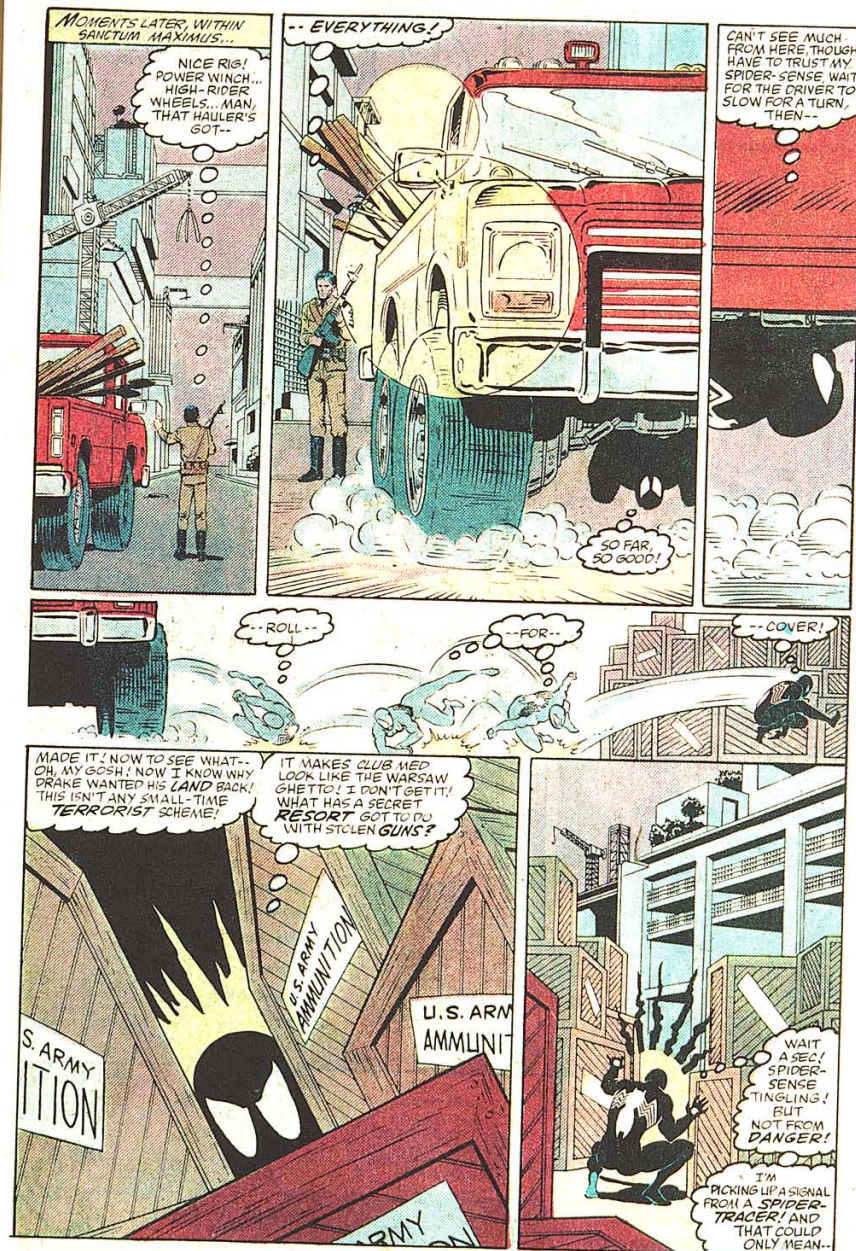
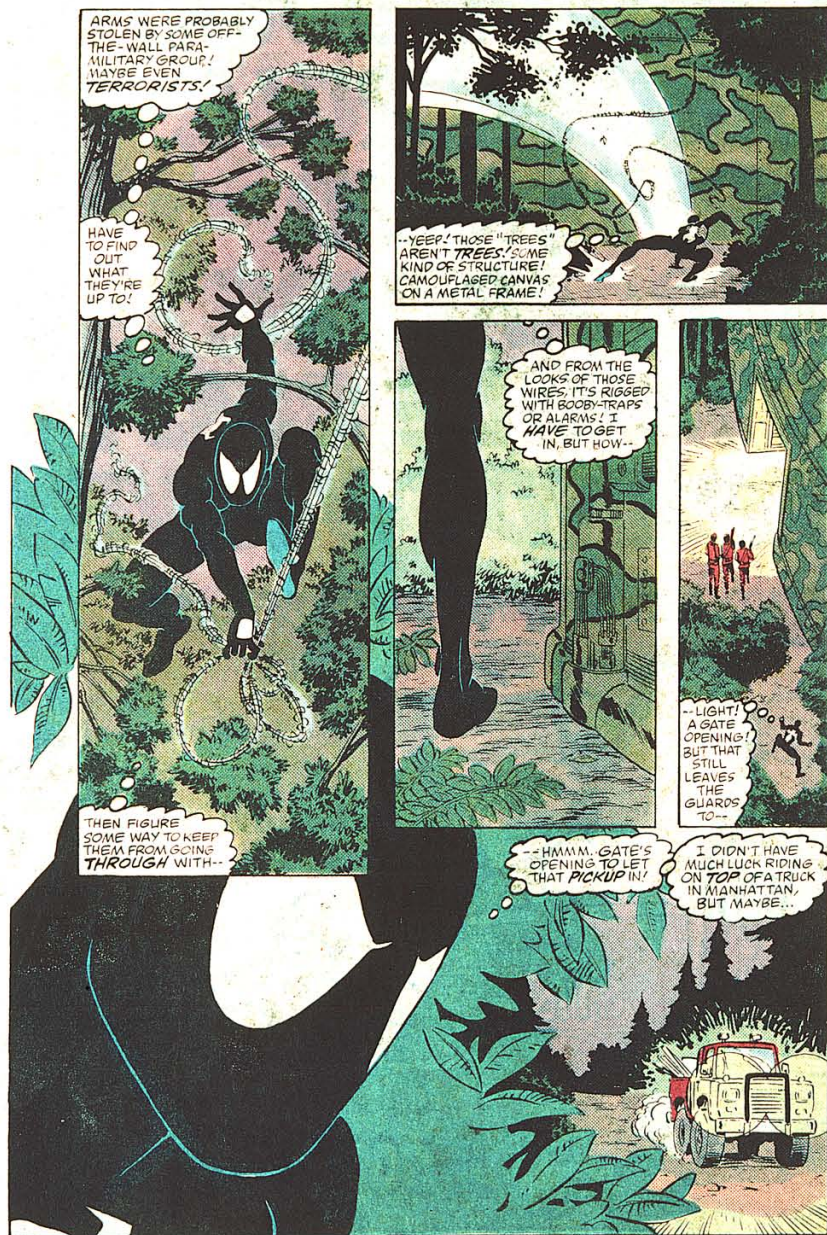
TIME TO GO
TO WORK...

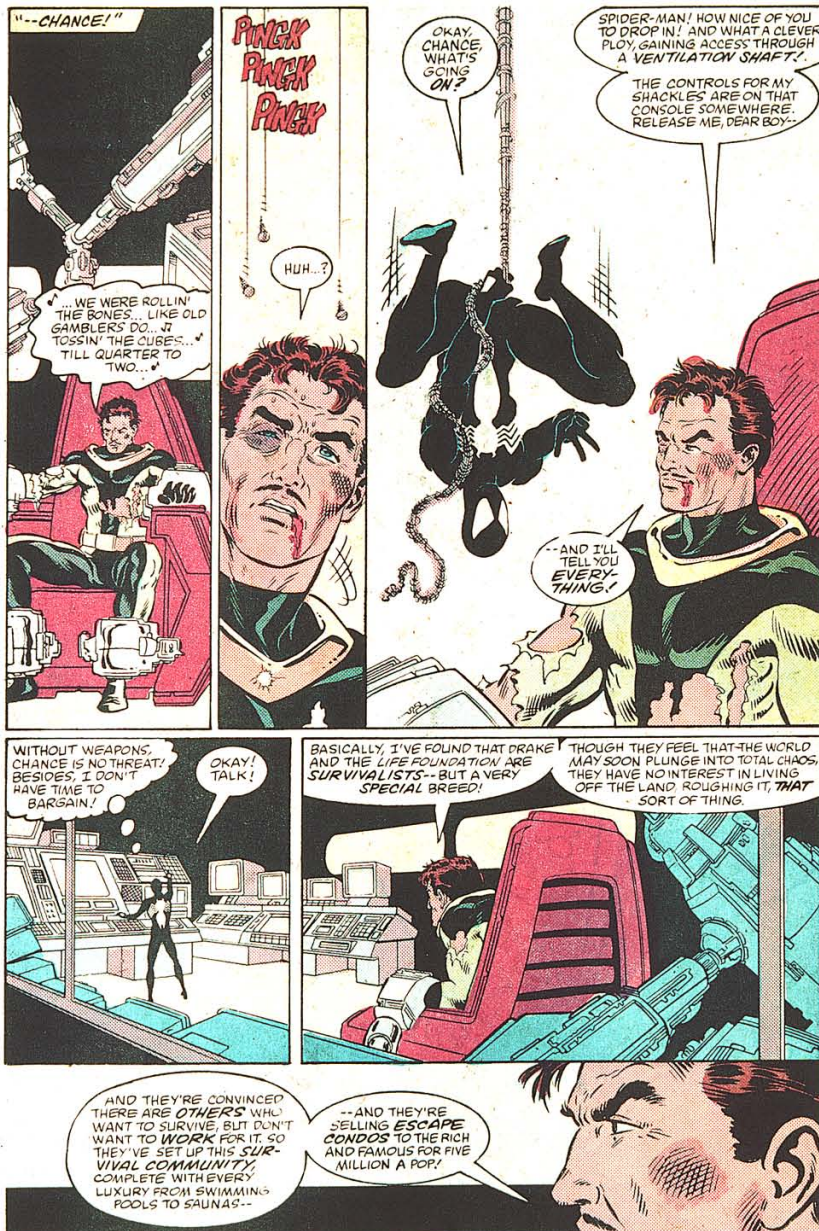


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HURDLE, BOMBARD, SCREEN, ROLL,
DIVE, PASS, EVADE, SPRINT, RAID,
DUNK, HURL, LOOP, LEAP, CAPTURE,
STAB, DEFEND, SHOOT, INVADE, BLAST,
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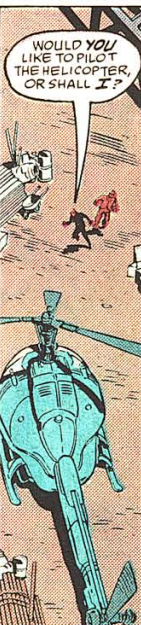
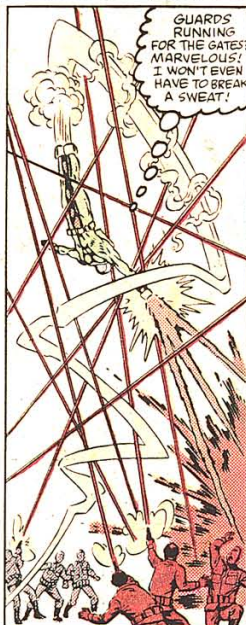
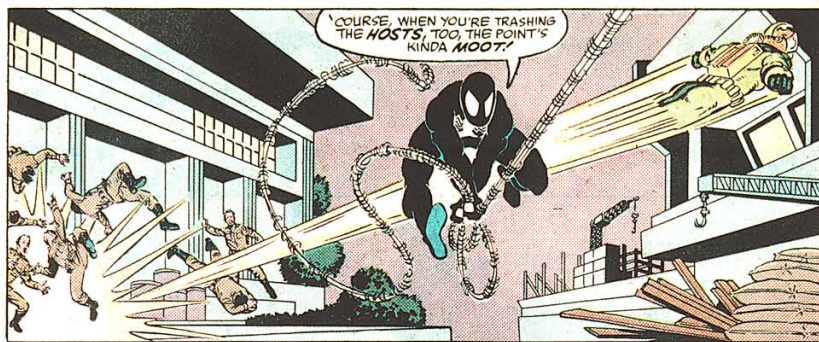




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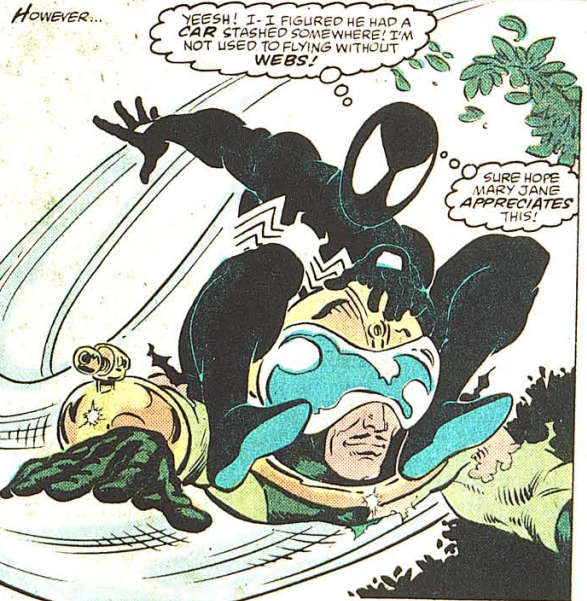


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SALICRUP'S SECTION

SALICRUP'S SECTION
Sensational! Disgusting! Gross! Genius! These were just a few of the words used to describe the controversial six-part Kraven the Hunter saga which ran through all three Spider-Man titles this summer.

This issue we're presenting just a small fraction of the many letters we received commenting on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #293. But before we get to that, I've got to give credit where credit is due. Whether you loved or hated the six-part, it must be known that it was James Owsley who originally commissioned the story to run in PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. I must confess that I was the one who decided to run it through all three titles. A few subscribers, who only subscribe to one or two Spidey titles, let me know in no uncertain terms how unhappy they were about only getting a few parts of the story. But, fear not, we don't have any more multi-part crossovers planned for the next year or so.

Well, I've rambled on long enough. Let's get to your comments.

Dear Jim,

You can't believe how happy I was when I saw that J.M. DeMatteis and Mike Zeck were writing and penciling THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #293. I enjoyed their work exceptionally in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #31 and just as much in part 2 of this wonderful 6-part story. "Crawling" was just as good as their first part that started everything off. I was extremely glad it was done in the same format as WEB #31 as it fits Spider-Man and this particular story.

But, back to AMAZING. I think the thing I found most surprising was the total absence of Spider-Man. (I mean the *true* one.) After seeing him buried I almost expected to see Spidey's hand erupt from the freshly dug earth and he himself follow. But, no, all we saw climb out was a true spider. (Or are they born true?) But, if a real eight-legged creature can do it, can't our hero? But I forget, he had a rifle bullet somewhere in his body. He couldn't just shrug that off! Look at all that is happening with him six feet under!

This is certainly the most drastic and tragic (and fun) thing that's happened to Spidey for a while (since the wedding). Thanks for another superb cover, and please keep up the truly MARVELOUS work!!

THANK YOU!!

Bill Climer
3330 Richmond-La Rue Rd.
La Rue, OH 43332

You're welcome, Bill.

Dear Marvel,

I suppose Kraven's wearing Spidey's costume is his equivalent of eating his slain opponent's heart! Yum?! Bet the New York Visitor Bureau just loved page 4! Is Vermin any relation to the sweet guy Cloak and Dagger ran into in STRANGE TALES #5?

I wondered what MJ was up to while her husband was sparing with Kraven! Personally, I wouldn't be wasting my time in that costume of his. If I had someone like MJ waiting for me, I'd have more dumb luck than she deserves, having Kraven pop up like that to save her from her own stupidity! And then to have Vermin decide to "dine" later, instead of having our redhead in the tight pants end up like the girl from page 4 did. Speaking of stupid, why am I even bothering to type this letter to a mag that doesn't even have a letters page??

Robert Kowalski
3878 Garvin
Detroit, MI 48212

As you can see, Robert, the ever-lovin' letters column is back and here to stay, we hope. No, the Vermin in *Strange Tales* was no relation to the Vermin you saw in these pages. The way we figure it, why can't two beings in the Marvel Universe have the same name? After all, you've probably met a few people named Robert in your lifetime, eh?

Dear Jim,

Both "The Coffin" and "Crawling" (WEB #13 and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #293) were great. J. M. DeMatteis, Mike Zeck and Bob McLeod created one of the most interesting Kraven the Hunter/Spider-man plots. The cover was a winner. I like the way DeMatteis was able to tell a little about Kraven's background. It helps me understand what made Kraven tick. I like the fact that Mary Jane knew that the Spider-Man who rescued her from the muggers wasn't her husband. Vermin managed to work well in the script. It will be interesting to see how Vermin will help or harm Kraven's plan to replace Spider-Man in the remaining series.

Charles David Haskell
15 West 139 St. Apt. 4R
New York, NY 10037

Well, Charles, as you no doubt have seen, Vermin was a major factor in Kraven's ultimate master plan. But in the end, it was Spider-Man's treatment of the critter who was the real hero.

Dear Jim,

I have never mutilated one of my comics intentionally. So why was it when I came home one day, happy at having found the latest two Spider-Man comics, that within one hour I was in a horrible state of depression and felt like ripping up these books? The reason was because these two books were ASM #293 and WSM #31.

I was incredulous. I went over the covers again to make sure I hadn't gotten near-sighted and picked up a horror comic satire of Spider-Man. How anyone at Marvel could allow such a repulsive thing to be put on the market is beyond me. I'm sure that when Stan Lee got Marvel going he had no idea that such a disgusting thing would come from it. Throughout years of being a Spider-Man collector I've heard it said that comics had a bad influence on people. On these they are probably right.

The small part with Spider-Man in it made no sense anyway. And some of the script! My mind feasts on your essence like maggots on a corpse. Even for Kraven, that's a stretch. Hey, listen! If I want doom, gloom, and repulsiveness I'll go rent Texas Chain Saw Massacre.

Matthew Howious
(no address given)

We don't want to limit the types of stories we present in these pages. We've presented mysteries, more humorous adventures, love stories, and anything else we thought might be exciting, as long as we think the stories are well done. We strongly feel that variety is the spice of life and the last thing we want is to get into a rut by presenting the same types of stories month after month. Perhaps the Kraven story was too intense for some readers, but it was never our intention to repulse anyone. If there were disgusting elements to the storyline, it was to dramatically emphasize the themes and ideas that we were exploring. But we would never publish anything we felt was in poor taste.

Dear Spider-Makers,

In AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #293 I liked a lot of Marc DeMatteis's writing within the caption-boxes (there's a first time for everything) but he does fall into the "everybody just happens to be" pit that seems to plague the pages of SPIDER-MAN more than other comics.

Everyone seems to be dealing with spiders and rats (i.e. Vermin). Mary Jane goes out, gets accosted and gets saved by Kraven in a spider-suit just as Vermin crawls out of the manhole... etc. Too many coincidences within one story. I know it was supposed to be for effect but it just seemed irritating to me.

I was going to refuse to buy the parts of this story in the other Spidey titles because (a) I've never liked anything I've ever read by J.M. DeMatteis and (b) while comics crossovers were still a novelty even 10 years ago, they're now mostly just cheap-shot marketing tactics. But I guess this deserves a little looking into. By the way, Mike Zeck's art was very good, as always!

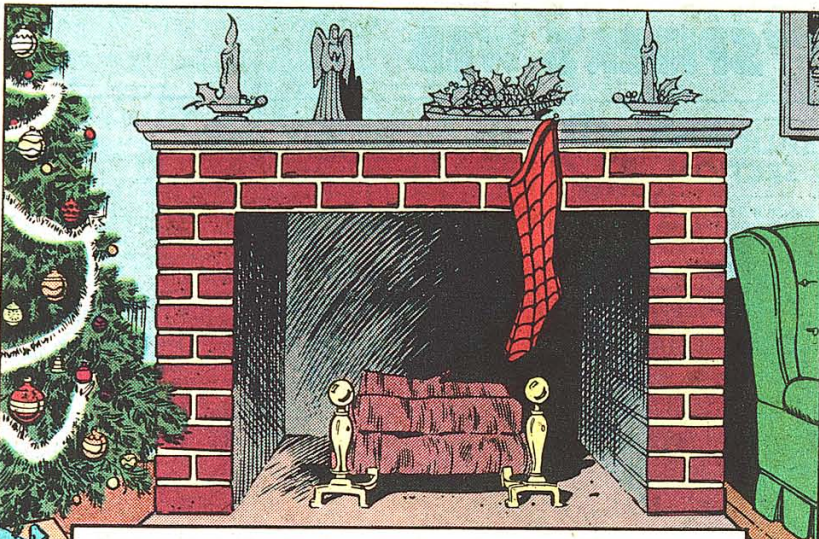
Well, maybe I'll end up actually liking this whole silly thing!

Tim Dwyer
7805 Glenwood
Overland Park, KS 66204

So what did you think, Tim? Did you wind up liking it or what? This is the kind of thing that keeps us up at night! As for the crossover being a "cheap-shot marketing tactic," we beg to differ. We felt that by running all six parts in just two months the story would have a far greater impact than if it was spread out over six months. What do the rest of you out there think? Were we wrong or did we actually do something right?

NEXT ISSUE: Spidey confronts Venom in our double-sized 300th issue. Will he survive his 25th anniversary or do we have to start looking for a new web-spinner (hint, hint)?





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"Happy Holidays, you guys!"

—THE MARVEL BULLPEN

ITEM: After a half year in the nine-to-five grind as head of our peerless Production Department, Jumbo Jim Novak (once our most popular letterer) has heard the scritch of penpoints and the bubbling of inkpots and has decided to pack up his desk and hit the freelance lettering road again. So good luck, Jim — this loss is Marvel's calligraphic gain!

ITEM: Stepping into the breach Jim left will be none other than Virtuous Virginia Romita, who is currently the Traffic Manager for the entire Marvel line. She's the one who keeps track of schedules and lets editors know when the Dreaded Deadline Doom is looming. Vee-Ay has decided not to give up her Trafficking job either — she intends to manage both Traffic and Production! (Whew! It's a big job, but she is a tough lady!)

ITEM: Wait — there's still more people exchanging hats! Erudite Adam Blaustein, assistant editor in the Special Projects department, has accepted a promotion out of the Editorial rank and file. Adam's now going to be a production man — specifically, our liaison with Chemical Color, the fine people who do the color separations for our comic books. Good luck to you in your new position, Adam!

ITEM: And, finally, taking Adam's place in our star-studded editorial line-up is Diligent David Wohl. David's been an editorial assistant on the OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE for most of its run and also did a summer stint as Star Editor Don Daley's assistant. Dave and his comrade-in-arms, Marc Stry (who is now assisting Reliable Ralph Macchio), are proud graduates of Marvel's high school editorial intern program, and both are currently attending college after work. (Satisfied, Marc? We finally found a way to mention you on this page!)

ITEM: If we seem a bit more harried this time than usual, here's why... It's MIGHTY MARVEL MOVING MADNESS WEEK, wherein a record-breaking seven editorial teams played musical offices! First, Administrative Manager Lynn Cohen moved from the office outside Editor in Chief Tom DeFalco's designer digs to the duplex desk ten feet outside. Then, Exec Editor Mark Gruenwald moved his worldly goods into Lynn's vacated space. Next, Craig Anderson moved from the office across the hall from Tom's so Mark's assistant editor, Gregory Wright, could take possession. Then the editorial team of Bob Harras and Bobbie Chase

packed their desks and settled into Mark's and Greg's former fortress. That left Bob and Bobbie's creative crawlspace open for Craig Anderson and David Wohl. Got all that so far? Good, 'cause we're only halfway done. Then, Michael Higgins, Mike Rockwitz, and Pat Redding gathered up their bounteous belongings, and the two Mikes moved into departing Production Manager Jim Novak's airy abode, while Pat got a sunless, but single, office to herself. That enabled Special Projects Editor Bob Budiansky and his right hand man Dwayne McDuffie to headquarter themselves in the former Mikes' and Pat's office. Then, finally, the editorial team of Ann Nocenti and Terry Kavanagh (who for the whole summer have been exiled to another floor, because we were short on suitable office space) moved into Bob and Dwayne's coveted corner office. At last, the moving's done, the dust has settled, and Marvel's mighty editorial staff is all on one floor again! Hats off to Office Manager Susie Ehrenreich (who's never been mentioned in this space before — hi, Susie!) for coordinating the whole shebang. (Now, if we could only remember where we actually moved all of our artwork, we could publish a few comic books!)

PRO FILE: BOB HARRAS

Editor on: X-FACTOR, INCREDIBLE HULK, G.I. JOE, G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS, G.I. JOE DIGEST, SPELLBOUND, INHUMANS GRAPHIC NOVEL

Marvel freelance credits (past): Issues of IRON MAN, THOR, AVENGERS, THING and ROBOCOP movie adaptation

Marvel freelance credits (present): The upcoming S.H.I.E.L.D. Limited Series

My hobbies are: Spelunking, hang-gliding, diving off the cliffs of Acapulco, mountain-climbing in the Himalayas and (according to Joanne Spaldo) breaking hearts.

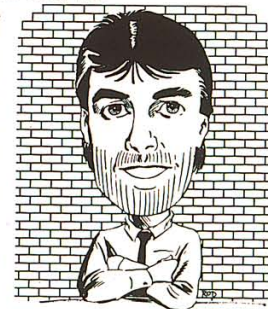
The single work which I am most proud of is: THOR #356 and a parody of ROM I wrote and drew in ROM #50.

My pet peeves are: Munchkins, especially those who belong to the Lollipop Guild.

My place of birth is: Queens, New York

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Developing an extensive collection of knitted ties (which is the envy of Archie Goodwin) and the uncanny ability to lie with the best of them.

My oddest habit is: Sitting in such strange positions that people wonder if I have a spine.



If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Al Pacino.

✓ Checklist

- ☐ DAREDEVIL #253
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #373
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #31
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #10
- ☐ STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #17
- ☐ SPELLBOUND Limited Series #6
- ☐ TALES OF G.I. JOE #4
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #340
- ☐ SOLO AVENGERS #5
- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #299
- ☐ STRANGE TALES #13
- ☐ GROO THE WANDERER #38
- ☐ THE NEW MUTANTS #62
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #57
- ☐ POWER PACK #36
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #290

- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #342
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #210
- ☐ SILVER SURFER #10
- ☐ THE UNCANNY X-MEN #228
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #205
- ☐ G.I. JOE #70
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #313
- ☐ IRON MAN #229
- ☐ THE 'NAM #17
- ☐ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #137
- ☐ THOR #390
- ☐ X-FACTOR #27
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #20
- ☐ THE TRANSFORMERS #39
- ☐ MARVEL BOOKSHELF
- ☐ EXCALIBUR #1 — They're Marvel's newest and most amazing mutant team yet! Written by Chris

The reason I got into comics was: I didn't want to grow up (and I've succeeded — ask anyone who knows me).

People who knew me in High School thought I was: Sarcastic.

My favorite performers are: Bruce Springsteen and Mark Gruenwald (whose portrayal of Mr. Mature in episode #7 of "Cheap Laifs" is incomparable).

The last good book I read was: WAITING FOR CHILDHOOD by Sumner Locke Elliott

The last good movie I saw was: FATAL ATTRACTION

The biggest influences on my work include: Ralph Macchio, Jim and Tammy Bakker, the other Ralph Macchio, Joe Biden, Jane Austen, Donald Trump and, of course, the obligatory William Shakespeare.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To get my freelance work in on every issue.

The worst part of my job is: Listening to Chris Claremont read his fan mail out loud (and I'm not even his editor!)

When nobody's looking I like to: Look at myself.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I never wear bow ties (despite what Ralph Macchio says).

Claremont, penciled by Alan Davis, and inked by Paul Neary.

☐ THE PIT — The future of the New Universe is changed forever! Written by John Byrne and Mark Gruenwald and drawn by Sal Buscema and Stan Drake.

☐ ELEKTRA Trade Paperback — The Epic Limited Series re-presented in one volume! Written by Frank Miller and painted by Bill Sienkiewicz.

☐ IRON MAN Graphic Novel — Story, computer-generated art and color by Mike Saenz.

☐ THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #5

☐ MARVEL MAGAZINES

☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #146

☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #61

☐ CONAN SAGA #11

☐ G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #9



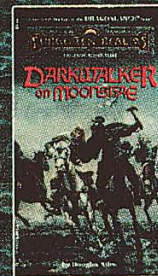
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